



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

November 15, 2002

Ms. Jane Kenny
Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 2
290 Broadway
New York, NY 10007-1866

Dear Ms. Kenny:

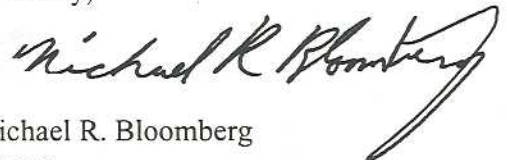
Shortly the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be issuing a Filtration Avoidance Determination (FAD) for New York City's Catskill and Delaware water supplies. I am writing to convey my thanks to EPA for working with us to achieve this milestone, and to underscore the commitment of my administration to ensuring the City's compliance with the terms of the FAD and the protection of the City's water supply.

For more than a decade, New York City has been implementing an aggressive and innovative watershed protection program that targets potential pollution sources. That overall program has helped the City maintain the already high quality of water from the Catskill/Delaware system and secure a series of waivers from the filtration requirements of the Surface Water Treatment Rule. New York City's initiatives are based on sound science and our efforts have been recognized as a national model for watershed protection. New York City has forged partnerships with State and federal agencies, watershed communities and environmental groups to advance our water quality protection goals.

The City's water supply is central to the health and well-being of our citizenry, and protection of that supply is one of the highest priorities of this administration. I have therefore directed Commissioner Christopher O. Ward of the Department of Environmental Protection to make every effort to ensure full compliance with the terms and conditions of this new FAD. That includes providing the resources necessary to support all elements of New York City's long-term watershed protection program, as incorporated in the FAD. I have directed Commissioner Ward to provide me with regular updates on the status of key programs and to alert my office at the earliest possible time if potential obstacles arise.

We look forward to working with your agency, and our other partners throughout the City and watershed to implement the programs and studies required by the FAD. We remain confident that our efforts will continue to provide protection for all New Yorkers who rely on the New York City water supply system.

Sincerely,


Michael R. Bloomberg
Mayor